

have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

REMEMBERING MARCOS GIL

● Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I rise in memory of Marcos Gil of Arimo, ID, who gave his life on April 28, 2018 rescuing a young woman from drowning.

When 17-year-old Marcos Gil saw his girlfriend caught in a circular current downriver from a waterfall, he rushed to her aid. Despite being a poor swimmer, Marcos jumped into the Portneuf River to save the 14-year-old girl as she called for help, submerging himself in the powerful current and pushing her toward the bank of the river. With Marcos' help, the young woman was able to grab hold of a branch at the edge of the riverbank and swim to safety. Tragically, Marcos was unable to extricate himself from that same current, drowning in the process of saving the young woman's life.

Those who knew Marcos described him as friendly, deeply caring and eager to serve, and the story of his courage and sacrifice continues to resonate throughout eastern Idaho and beyond. Members of the community have rallied around the Gil family, including the Bannock County Sheriff's Office, which honored Marcos posthumously with the first ever lifesaving award presented to a civilian, and the Red Cross of Greater Idaho, which recognized Marcos with its East Idaho Real Heroes award. This year, Marcos was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal by the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission. The award, which is given to recognize those who have risked their lives to save others, will be presented to his parents, Margarito and Silvia Gil.

At just 17 years old, Marcos Gil left the world far too soon. He is deeply missed by his family and all who were fortunate enough to know him, and his bravery and heroism will not be forgotten.●

REMEMBERING MARTHA FLORES

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I honor the life and legacy of Cuban-American radio legend and pioneer, Martha Flores from Miami, FL.

As South Floridians grieve the loss of Martha Flores, an exemplary woman and radio trailblazer, let us honor her memory. For more than 60 years, Martha dedicated her life to her beloved audience and to her South Florida community. Martha, more commonly known as Miami radio's own "Queen of the Night," or la "Reina de la Noche" in Spanish, was the voice of Cuban exiles and is remembered as the first Cuban female to conduct her own radio show in Florida.

More than just a radio legend, commentator, philanthropist, actress, and singer, Martha Flores was a Cuban-American patriot who tirelessly spoke

out against the horrors of communism and advocated for liberty and freedom of speech worldwide. Although we are left without the Queen of the Night, her legacy and memory will live in the hearts of many Floridians for generations to come. May she rest in peace.●

TRIBUTE TO BRITTANY BROWN

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I honor Brittany Brown, the Holmes County Teacher of the Year at Ponce de Leon High School in Ponce de Leon, FL.

Brittany believes her work as an educator is to help her students grow and succeed not only in her classroom, but also in their lives. She finds the most rewarding part of her work hearing of her students' newfound love of science.

Brittany believes students lose excitement and fascination for science by the time they reach high school, making one of her primary goals to rekindle the subject with them. She incorporates modern scientific equipment and technology in her curriculum to make science fun and interesting for her students.

Brittany teaches biology, agriculture, and aerospace at Ponce de Leon High School and has been a science educator for 8 years. She enjoys teaching and hopes to pass on her passion for the subject to her students.

I congratulate Brittany for receiving this important recognition. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO BELINDA FRIES

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today it is my privilege to honor Belinda Fries, the Suwannee County Teacher of the Year from Suwannee High School in Live Oak, FL.

When named the district's Teacher of the Year, Belinda noted she was humbled and proud to be one of Suwannee County's top educators. She is an experienced technology professional and has been teaching computer science and information technology to students at Suwannee High School since 2016.

Belinda said her favorite part of each day is being with her students in the classroom, and she considers teaching to be a gift. She believes that her students have the ability to fulfill their dreams, and she loves encouraging each of them to do and be their best.

I extend my sincere thanks and best wishes to Belinda for her inspiring work to educate her students. I look forward to hearing of her continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ALAN GATZKE

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I am pleased to recognize Alan Gatzke, the Columbia County Teacher of the Year from Fort White Elementary School in Fort White, FL.

Alan cherishes the opportunities to connect with students and his fellow teachers. For four decades, he has continually brought his passion for teaching and learning to schools and believes that it is the positive teaching relationships with his students and peers that has allowed him to succeed.

Alan teaches mathematics and science to students in fifth grade at Fort White Elementary School. During his more than 40-year teaching career, he has served as an elementary and middle school teacher, a bus driver, a custodian, and a school administrator. His experience in these jobs taught him that every job title at a school plays vital roles in the education of children.

Alan holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a specialist's degree from the University of Florida, and a master's degree from Florida International University.

I offer my sincere gratitude to Alan for his decades of work teaching countless students. I look forward to hearing of his continued good work in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DAPHNE HAYES

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I recognize Daphne Hayes, the Hardee County Teacher of the Year at Hardee Senior High School in Wauchula, FL.

Daphne believes in her students and teaches them to believe in themselves. She encourages them to apply to multiple colleges and universities to broaden their options after they graduate from high school. She takes pride in knowing one of her students last year received acceptance letters from more than two dozen schools and received several scholarships.

Daphne is a science and Advancement Via Individual Determination—AVID—teacher and has taught in Hardee County for 8 years. She sponsors the AVID program, which helps students identify and focus on their goals, improves their academic performance, and establishes a plan for their future. Daphne also dedicates her spare time to serving youth at the First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

I extend my best wishes and gratitude for Daphne for her dedication to her students and her community. I look forward to learning of her continued success in coming years.●

TRIBUTE TO BRITTINIE JOHNSON

● Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, today I am pleased to honor Brittinie Johnson, the Baker County Teacher of the Year at Baker County High School in St. Mary, FL.

Each day, Brittinie looks for opportunities to teach her students to be leaders and to grow in character. She believes these skills will serve them not only in school, but also translate to their lives outside of the classroom. Her students are the inspiration for her career as an educator.